

Good Afternoon Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Bill Keane and I am here to express concern regarding Bill 666.

I have been involved with Pam Allen, Director of Evergreen sober house since 11/7/06. Pam, and Evergreen provide a spiritual and recovery based way of life that can be very useful to a newly recovering alcoholic or addict. Since being here, I have grown and learned a lot about God, myself, and recovery.

Sober Homes work, provided the addict or alcoholic want to stay clean. I have proved this to myself, as I stayed in another Sober Home from 10/3 to 3/06. I stayed sober from 7/28/03 to 2/06. I was working a hard program, doing 5 to 7 AA meetings a week without fail but the spiritual end of my program was lacking. The spiritual part of the program is the most important part of it, because if a person doesn't enlarge his spiritual life changes of staying in recovery are slim.

That's why I like Evergreen so much. In my opinion, at Evergreen the spiritual aspect of the program of recovery is the foundation upon which a person can build a life pleasing and useful to God, society, and himself. The 12th step in AA's 12 steps reads as follows "Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs." What principles are they talking about? The principles in the preceding steps, AA's 12 steps are the program of recovery for alcoholics and addicts. Fellowship and service work are also extremely important if the addict or alcoholic want to recover and lead happy useful lives.

I don't think I would have come to this conclusion if it wasn't for Pam, and Evergreen Sober Homes. As stated before, Sober Homes proved added support to AA's program of recovery, thus increasing an alcoholic or addicts chances of permanent recovery.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee on this extremely important issue.

Good afternoon, Senator Handley, Representative Saters and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. I am **Bill Keane a person in recovery. This means that I have been alcohol and drug free since that time. I am here today to express my concern about Proposed S.B. 666, An ACT Concerning Safe Residential Treatment Facilities for Effective Recovery.**

I have been involved with Pam Allen Director of Evergreen Sober Homes since November 2006. Pam and Evergreen provide a spiritual and recovery based way of life that can be very useful to newly recovering alcoholics or addicts. Since being here I have grown and learned a lot about God, myself and recovery.

Sober homes work, provided the alcohol or addict wants to stay clean. I have proven this to myself, as I was staying in another sober home from October 03 to March 06. I had stayed sober since July 03. I was working a hard program, going to 5-7 A.A. meetings a week without fail, but the spiritual end of my program was lacking, the spiritual part of the program is the most important part of it, because if a person doesn't enlarge his spiritual life, his chances of staying sober are slim.

That is why I like Evergreen so much. In my opinion at Evergreen the spiritual aspect of the program is the foundation upon which a person can build a life pleasing and useful to God, society, and himself.

The 12th step in A.A. read as follows "Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholic, and practice these principles in all our affairs." What principles are they talking about? The principles in the 11 preceding steps, AA's 12 steps are the program of recovery for alcoholics and addicts. Fellowship and service work are also extremely important if the alcoholic or addict want to recover, and lead happy, useful lives.

I don't think I would have come to this conclusion if it wasn't for Pam and Evergreen Sober Homes. Like I said sober homes provide added support to AA's program of recovery, thus increasing an alcoholic or addicts chances of long term sustained recovery.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee on this extremely important issue. Please do not put in place a statute that may well jeopardize access to housing for persons who are striving to recover their lives and become productive members of society. Please consider working with DMHAS and the recovery community to accommodate community needs."